

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for handling user equipment in a communications network comprising at least a first access network and a second access network for enabling a user equipment to access said communications network, wherein the access networks have at least a partially overlapping service area, and wherein the user equipment located in a partially overlapping service area can be transferred from the first to the second access network, said method comprising the following steps:

receiving ~~(102)~~ an indication of a request for transferring at least one user equipment from said first access network to said second access network ,
checking ~~(104)~~ a transfer permission parameter value associated to a user equipment,
determining ~~(105)~~ that the transfer permission parameter value indicates that a transfer of the associated user equipment is permitted,
determining ~~(106)~~ that the transfer permission parameter value indicates that the user equipment belongs to a group of user equipment, for which a preferred access network has been defined, and
initiating, ~~(107)~~ based on the determination, the transfer of the user equipment from the first to the second access network.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, wherein an access network operates according to the standards defined for of one of a Global System for Mobile Communications, Wideband Code Division Multiple Access, Code Division Multiple Access, and Enhanced Data Rates for Global System for Mobile Communications Evolution.

3. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the group of user equipment for which a preferred access network has been defined comprises ~~of~~ user equipment with service capabilities limited to services which that correspond to services supported by the second network.

4. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the group of user equipment for which a preferred access network has been defined comprises ~~of~~ user equipment ~~used~~ associated to a subscription having with permitted services that are limited to services which that correspond to services supported by the second network.

5. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the group of user equipment for which a preferred access network has been defined comprises ~~of~~ user equipment ~~used~~ associated to a subscription for which that services are permitted that are not supported by the first network.

6. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 5~~, wherein the group of user equipment for which a preferred access network has been defined comprises ~~of~~ user equipment with service capabilities corresponding to services that are not supported by the first network.

7. (Currently Amended) A device Device (~~DEV2~~) for selecting user equipment to be transferred from a first access network to a second access network, comprising an input output unit (~~IOU2~~) for sending and receiving messages, whereby the input output unit (~~IOU2~~) is adopted to receive an indication of a request for transferring at least one user equipment from said first access network to said second access network, the device comprising:

a processing unit (~~PU2~~),

a storage (~~STO2~~), whereby the storage (~~STO2~~) is adapted to store transfer permission parameter value associated to user equipment, and

a determining unit (~~DU2~~) for determining, based on a transfer permission parameter value associated to a user equipment, whether a transmission of the user equipment is permitted, whereby the processing unit (~~PU2~~) is adapted to control the other units, ~~characterised by~~

a logical unit (~~LU2~~) is adapted to determine, based on the transfer permission parameter value associated to a user equipment, whether the user equipment belongs to a group of user equipment for which a preferred access network has been defined.

8. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim 7, wherein the logical unit determines whether a user equipment belongs to said group by means of analysing a transfer permission parameter value associated to the user equipment.

9. (Currently Amended) A database ~~Database~~ for storing subscriber related data containing

an input/output unit for sending and receiving messages,

a processing unit for controlling the database and

a storage for storing subscriber related data, ~~characterised by that~~ the storage is being adapted to store information if whether ~~a user equipment used by a subscriber belongs to a group of user equipment, for which a preferred access network has been defined, the information being a transfer permission parameter value associated to the user equipment.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A network ~~Network~~ node for performing a subscriber identification analysis, ~~characterised by that~~ the network node comprising ~~comprises~~ electronic circuitry for determining, based on a transfer permission parameter value associated to a user equipment, whether a user equipment belongs to a group of user equipment, for which a preferred access network has been defined.